CALIFORNIA WORKFORCE INVESTMENT ACT FACT SHEET

The Workforce Investment Act of 1998 provides the framework for a national workforce preparation and employment system designed to meet both the needs of the nation's businesses and the needs of job seekers and those who want to further their careers. Title I of the legislation is based on the following elements:

- Training and employment programs must be designed and managed at the local level where the needs of businesses and individuals are best understood.
- Customers must be able to conveniently access the employment, education, training, and information services they need at a single location in their neighborhoods.
- Customers should have choices in deciding the training program that best fits their needs and the organizations that will provide that service. They should have control over their own career development.
- Customers have a right to information about how well training providers succeed in preparing people for jobs. Training providers will provide information on their success rates.
- Businesses will provide information, leadership, and play an active role in ensuring that the system prepares people for current and future jobs.

The Act builds on the most successful elements of previous Federal legislation. Just as important, its key components are based on local and State input and extensive research and evaluation studies of successful training and employment innovations over the past decade.

There are 50 Workforce Investment Boards (WIBs) in California. Local WIBs, in partnership with local elected officials, plan and oversee workforce development system in their workforce investment area. Local boards designate "One-Stop" operators and identify providers of training services, monitor system performance against established performance measures, negotiate local performance measures with the state board and the Governor, and help develop the labor market information system.

Each WIB oversees agencies and organizations that administer WIA and other federal and state workforce development programs. These organizations work with various aspects of local government and community based organizations to provide training, education and employment services to youth and adults.

In addition to oversight of WIA funds, each WIB also has the responsibility for the oversight and administration of federally-funded Welfare-to-Work dollars.

In California, there are 14 workforce investment areas comprised of cities or consortia of cities; the remainder are comprised of counties or consortia of counties. In some cases, the WIB administrative agency is a city or county agency, and in others, it is a private non-profit. A list of the Workforce Investment Boards and contacts is enclosed.

Alameda County Workforce Investment Board

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Carson/Lomita/Torrance Workforce Investment Board

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City of Richmond Workforce Investment Board

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City of Santa Ana - Santa Ana Work Center

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Foothill Employment & Training Consortium

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Fresno Workforce Development Board

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Golden Sierra Job Training Agency

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Humboldt County Workforce Investment Board

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Imperial County Office of Employment Training

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Los Angeles County Workforce Investment Board

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Mendocino Workforce Investment Board

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Oakland Workforce Investment Board

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Orange County WIB

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Riverside County Economic Development Agency

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San Benito County Department of Community Services and Workforce Developement

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